

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus comprising:

image-data-forming means which forms data of an image to be printed on a film sheet;

energy-applying means which generates energy and applies the energy to the film sheet; and

energy-control means which controls the energy applied to the film sheet by the energy-applying means on the basis of the image data and changes a property of the film sheet, thereby forming the image.

2. A printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the energy generated by the energy-applying means is thermal energy.

3. A printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the property of the film sheet, the property being changed in accordance with the energy applied, is glossiness.

4. A printing apparatus which prints an image on the surface of a print medium and which forms a film layer on the image-printed surface of the print medium, the printing apparatus comprising:

first image-data-forming means which forms data of the

image to be printed on the surface of the print medium;

second image-data-forming means which forms data of an image to be printed on the surface of the film layer;

printing means which prints the image on the print medium on the basis of the image data formed by the first image-data-forming means;

energy-applying means which generates energy and applies the energy to a film sheet disposed over the image-printed surface of the print medium so as to form the film layer; and

energy-control means which controls the energy applied to the film sheet by the energy-applying means on the basis of the image data formed by the second-image-data-forming means and changes a property of the film sheet while transferring the film sheet onto the image-printed surface of the print medium, thereby forming the image.

5. A printing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the energy generated by the energy-applying means is thermal energy.

6. A printing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the property of the film sheet, the property being changed in accordance with the energy applied, is glossiness.

7. A printing apparatus which forms image information and information associated therewith on a print medium, the printing apparatus comprising:

information-obtaining means which receives the image information and obtains the information associated therewith, the associated information including attached information that is read out in relation to the image information or added information that is input or selected by input/operation means in accordance with the image information;

printing means which includes a transfer head which forms the image information on the print medium and which transfers a film sheet onto the image-printed surface of the print medium; and

control means which controls energy applied to the transfer head and changes a property of the film sheet, thereby forming the associated information on the film sheet as a watermark.

8. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein, when information indicating the orientation of the image is input or selected, or when information indicating the orientation of the image that is included in the attached information is read out, the control means determines the position and orientation in which the associated information

is to be formed in accordance with the orientation of the image.

9. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7 further comprising image storage means which stores the image information, a storage area of the image storage means being used also for storing the associated information.

10. A printing apparatus according to Claim 8 further comprising image storage means which stores the image information, a storage area of the image storage means being used also for storing the associated information.

11. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the associated information includes at least one of date information indicating a date on which the image is photographed, a date on which the image is created, or a date on which the image information is processed, information indicating a name of an image file or a comment, and information for displaying copyright or a copyright holder, the associated information being obtained and formed on the film sheet.

12. A printing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the associated information includes at least one of date

information indicating a date on which the image is photographed, a date on which the image is created, or a date on which the image information is processed, information indicating a name of an image file or a comment, and information for displaying copyright or a copyright holder, the associated information being obtained and formed on the film sheet.

13. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the image information and the information associated therewith are read out from an image file based on a format which includes the associated information as tag information, the image information being formed on the print medium and the associated information being formed on the film sheet as a watermark.

14. A printing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the image information and the information associated therewith are read out from an image file based on a format which includes the associated information as tag information, the image information being formed on the print medium and the associated information being formed on the film sheet as a watermark.

15. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

the control means selects from a plurality of control values which are set stepwise in correspondence with the energy applied to the transfer head in the process of transferring the film sheet, and determines glossy regions and matt regions on the film sheet or changes the glossiness of the film sheet, thereby forming the associated information as a watermark.

16. A printing apparatus according to Claim 7 further comprising a data storage unit which stores font data for forming characters and symbols representing the associated information on the film sheet.

17. A printing method comprising the step of controlling energy applied to a film sheet on the basis of image data and changing a property of the film sheet, thereby forming the image.

18. A printing method according to Claim 17, wherein the energy applied to the film sheet is thermal energy.

19. A printing method according to Claim 17, wherein the property of the film sheet, the property being changed in accordance with the energy applied, is glossiness.

20. A printing method by which an image is printed on the surface of a print medium and a film layer is formed on the image-printed surface of the print medium, the printing method comprising:

a first image-data-forming step at which data of the image to be printed on the surface of the print medium is formed;

a second image-data-forming step at which data of an image to be printed on the surface of the film layer is formed;

a printing step at which the image is printed on the print medium on the basis of the image data formed at the first image-data-forming step; and

an energy-applying step at which a film sheet is disposed over the image-printed surface of the print medium so as to form the film layer and energy is applied to the film sheet,

wherein, at the energy-applying step, energy applied to the film sheet is controlled on the basis of the image data formed at the second image-data-forming step and a property of the film sheet is changed while the film sheet is being transferred onto the image-printed surface of the print medium, and the image is thereby formed.

21. A printing method according to Claim 20, wherein

the energy applied to the film sheet is thermal energy.

22. A printing method according to Claim 20, wherein the property of the film sheet, the property being changed in accordance with the energy applied, is glossiness.

23. A printing method by which image information and information associated therewith are formed on a print medium, the printing method comprising the steps of:

receiving the image information and obtaining the information associated therewith, the associated information including attached information that is read out in relation to the image information or added information that is input or selected by input/operation means in accordance with the image information;

printing the image information on the print medium; and
covering the image-printed surface of the print medium with a film sheet and forming the associated information on the film sheet as a watermark.

24. A printing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the associated information includes at least one of date information indicating a date on which the image is photographed, a date on which the image is created, or a date on which the image information is processed,

information indicating a name of an image file or a comment, and information for displaying copyright or a copyright holder, the associated information being obtained and formed on the film sheet.

25. A printing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the information associated with the image information is read out from an image file based on a format which includes the associated information as tag information.

26. A printing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein a plurality of control values are set stepwise in correspondence with energy applied to a transfer head for transferring the film sheet, and, at the step of forming the associated information, the control values are selectively used in such a manner that surface glossiness of the film sheet is made relatively low at regions where the associated information is formed.

27. A printing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein a plurality of control values are set stepwise in correspondence with energy applied to a transfer head for transferring the film sheet, and, at the step of forming the associated information, the control values are selectively used in such a manner that surface glossiness of the film

sheet is made relatively high at regions where the associated information is formed.

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